

## A METHOD FOR ROUTING INFORMATION OVER A NETWORK

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### ABSTRACT

5 A method of operating an optical network is described. The network includes  
a number of nodes connected by a number of links. A method according to the  
present invention provisions a virtual path between a first and a second one of the  
plurality of nodes by: identifying the first and the second nodes, discovering a  
physical path from the first node to the second node, and establishing the virtual path.  
The method discovers a physical path from the first node to the second node by  
10 automatically identifying nodes forming the physical path. The method establishes  
the virtual path by configuring a set of connections between the nodes forming the  
physical path.

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